

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the International application:

Claims 1-20 are cancelled, new claims 21-35 are added.

Listing of Claims:

21. (New) A tentacled plant anchor and ground cover for improving harvest yield of tentacled plants, the tentacled plant anchor and ground cover including

a water-impervious membrane strip of a synthetic plastics material having a side which in use is an upper side on which a growing tentacled plant can be supported; and

tentacle anchoring formations on the upper side of the membrane strip for assisting a tentacled plant in the vicinity of the tentacled plant anchor and ground cover to anchor itself thereto, the tentacle anchoring formations allowing plant tentacles to grow in between the tentacle anchoring formations and the membrane strip.

22. (New) A tentacled plant anchor and ground cover as claimed in claim 21, in which the membrane strip has a thickness of between about 15 μm and about 40 μm , and a length of at least 500 m.

23. (New) A tentacled plant anchor and ground cover as claimed in claim 21, in which the membrane strip has a width of between about 0.5 m and about 2.5 m.

24. (New) A tentacled plant anchor and ground cover as claimed in claim 21, in which the tentacle anchoring formations are defined by a net located on the upper side of the membrane strip.

25. (New) A tentacled plant anchor and ground cover as claimed in claim 24, in which the net is attached to the membrane strip at a plurality of spaced locations, allowing the net to be displaceable away from the membrane strip, in areas where the net is not attached to the membrane strip.

26. (New) A tentacled plant anchor and ground cover as claimed in claim 21, in which the membrane strip defines at least one aperture therethrough for receiving a plant.

27. (New) A tentacled plant anchor and ground cover as claimed in claim 21, which is in the form of a roll, comprising a ply consisting of the membrane strip and another ply consisting of the tentacle anchoring formations.

28. (New) A method of improving harvest yield for tentacled plants by providing a water-impervious membrane strip with tentacle anchoring formations, the method including

laying a tentacled plant anchor and ground cover on a strip of ground;
securing the tentacled plant anchor and ground cover to the ground; and
planting tentacled plants or their seed through apertures in the membrane strip so that tentacled plants growing through the apertures can anchor themselves to the tentacle anchoring formations on top of the membrane strip.

29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28, in which laying the tentacled plant anchor and ground cover includes unrolling the membrane strip and the tentacle anchoring formations from a roll, comprising a ply of the membrane strip and a ply of the tentacle anchoring formations.

30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28, in which securing the ground cover to the ground includes securing longitudinally extending zones adjacent respective longitudinally extending edges of the tentacled plant anchor and ground cover to the ground.

31. (New) A method as claimed in claim 28, which includes providing a tunnel or shelter over the tentacled plant anchor and ground cover.

32. (New) A method of improving harvest yield for tentacled plants by providing tentacle anchoring formations for the tentacled plants, the method including
laying a membrane strip of a synthetic plastics material having a side which in use is an upper side on a strip of ground;
laying tentacle anchoring formations on the upper side of the membrane strip;
securing the membrane strip and the tentacle anchoring formations to the ground;
and

planting tentacled plants or their seed through apertures in the membrane strip so that tentacled plants growing through the apertures can anchor themselves to the tentacle anchoring formations on top of the membrane strip.

33. (New) A method as claimed in claim 32, which includes providing a roll, comprising a ply of the membrane strip and a ply of tentacle anchoring formations, and unrolling the membrane strip and the tentacle anchoring formations simultaneously to lay them simultaneously on the ground.

34. (New) A method as claimed in claim 32, in which securing the membrane strip and the tentacle anchoring formations to the ground includes securing longitudinally extending zones adjacent respective longitudinally extending edges of the membrane strip and a body defining the tentacle anchoring formations to the ground.

35. (New) A method as claimed in claim 32, which includes providing a tunnel or shelter over the membrane strip and the tentacle anchoring formations.